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TO: Natural Resources Commission
Department of Natural Resources Management Team

FROM: Trevor VanDyke, Legislative Liaison and Policy Advisor

SUBJECT: Department of Natural Resources Legislative Update

SB 218 – Amend Water Resource Improvement Tax Increment Finance Authority – Sen. Goeff Hansen

The bill would amend the Water Resource Improvement Tax Increment Finance Authority (TIFA) Act to do the following: include dredging and other activities that enhance a waterway's navigability among the water resource improvements that may be financed under the Act; include the shoreline of a Great Lakes harbor, as well as connected land and tributaries, in the definition of "water resource improvement district;" delete the exclusion of chemical treatment for aquatic nuisance control, from water resource improvements eligible for financing. The bill also would repeal a section prohibiting the creation of a water resource improvement TIFA or the expansion of a TIFA's development plan after December 31, 2011.

- The bill is before the Governor for consideration.

SB 16 – Wildlife Violators Compact – Sen. Howard Walker

The bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to authorize hunt/fish license suspension for failure to comply with a citation to enhance enforcement provisions and reciprocity of the wildlife violator compact.

- The bill is before the full House for consideration.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 4285 – Earmark Timber Sales on State Land for PILT Payments – Rep. Joel Johnson

The bill would use any revenue received from timber sales on state owned land from the year to ensure PILT payments are made in full.

- The bill is before the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

HB 4578 – Michigan State Park Endowment Fund & MNRTF Amendment – Rep. Mike Shirkey

The bill states that once the Michigan State Park Endowment Fund reaches the limit, the funds will then be deposited in the Michigan Transportation Fund for the use of road or highway rest areas that are designated as official State Welcome Centers or State Recreation Tourism Centers that are designated to facilitate recreation.

- The bill is before the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

HB 4580 – Definition of Sport Shooting Ranges – Rep. Mike Shirkey

The bill would amend the definition of sport shooting ranges to include ranges that conduct commercial activities and exempt them from certain local ordinances.

- The bill is before the House Committee on Local Government.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

HB 4609 – Earmark Oil and Gas Severance Taxes – Rep. Mike Shirkey

The bill would allocate funds from oil and gas severance tax upon reaching the \$3 million orphan well fund as follows: 50 percent to the general fund and 50 percent to the State Transportation Department to be allocated in the same manner as provided in Sec. 10 (1)(J) of 1951 PA 51.

- The bill is before the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

SB 243 – Waterways Funds for Dredging and Breakwalls – Sen. Darwin Booher

The bill seeks to amend Part 781 (Michigan State Waterways Commission) to require at least half of the money spent from the Waterways Account in any fiscal year to be spent for dredging, the construction of breakwaters at recreational boating facilities, and grants for those purposes. The bill also seeks to require the DNR to conduct an annual assessment of the state's public harbors to determine the need for dredging and infrastructure improvements.

- The bill is before the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration opposes this legislation.

SJR S – Right to Hunt, Trap, and Fish – Sen. David Hildenbrand

The resolution would add the right to hunt, trap, and fish to the State Constitution. The joint resolution also would require the state to aggressively enforce any laws adopted to protect this right. The joint resolution would have to be submitted to the voters at the next general election, if two-thirds of the members elected to and serving in each house of the Legislature approved it.

- This bill is before the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 4668 – Hunting & Fishing License Restructuring – Rep. Jon Bumstead

The bill would create a base hunting license and modify hunting and fishing licenses and fees. This is part of the budget implementation necessary for the DNR 2014 budget as passed out of both chambers.

- This bill is before the House Committee on Appropriations.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 4669 – ORV License Fee Restructuring – Rep. Jon Bumstead

The bill would revise the license fee for off-road vehicles and create an option for users to acquire a license if they want to use state ORV trails.

- This bill is before the House Committee on Appropriations.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

PA 21 – NRC Ability to Designate Species as Game – Sen. Tom Casperson

This act amends Parts 401 (Wildlife Conservation) and 487 (Sport Fishing) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to do the following:

- Authorize the NRC (in addition to the Legislature) to designate a species as game.
- Grant the NRC the exclusive authority to regulate the taking of fish in Michigan, and require it to issue related orders and notify the Legislature before doing so.
- Amend Part 435 (Hunting and Fishing Licensing) to revise provisions pertaining to hunting and fishing licenses issued to members of the military, including eliminating the fee, and a requirement that a member be stationed outside the state.

PA 22 – Right to Hunt & Fish – Sen. Tom Casperson

This act amends Part 401 (Wildlife Conservation) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to add a legislative declaration regarding hunting and fishing in Michigan, as well as rights related to those activities.

If you would like to learn more about these and other bills, you can access the Michigan Legislature website at www.legislature.mi.gov.